

About the Series

How do we cope with life's many challenges and the weight of sin's consequences? How does God work in the lives of the people He loves? The book of Isaiah answers these questions and many more as it takes us on a life-changing journey from warning to redemption, reminding us of a faithful God who never leaves us, and calling us to trust the Savior who breaks through the darkness and brings hope and new life.

**#17: Making Sense of Things**

Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Isaiah 44:24–45:25

» Watch

Watch the sermon. As you watch, take notes on anything that stands out to you. Pay careful attention to the context of the biblical text, insights and principles highlighted, and any supporting scripture mentioned.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

In God's grand purpose, He allows things to happen...

- So that He may be known to all
- So that His will is accomplished
- So that His Word is declared truthful
- So that people will turn to Him for salvation

» Talk It Through

1. Have you ever looked back on something that happened in your life and thought, "I really didn't understand why God allowed that"? What was your initial reaction to it, and did your perspective change over time?
2. Cyrus was a pagan king who didn't even know God, yet God used him to accomplish His purposes for Israel. What do the four purposes mentioned in the sermon teach us about God and how He works? What did you learn about the limits of our perspective and about God's ability to work through people and circumstances we wouldn't expect?
3. When something happens that doesn't make sense or doesn't go the way you hoped, what is your usual instinct: trust God, question God, try to take control, get frustrated, or something else? What does that reaction reveal about what you believe about God and His control over your life?
4. The sermon encourages us to respond to life's uncertainties with peace, acceptance, and assurance instead of confusion, bitterness, anger, or fear. What is one situation you're currently struggling to understand, and what would it look like for you to trust God with it this week?

» Pray

Close your time together with prayer.